RG 104, entry 217, box 3

Mint of the United States.

Philadelphia May 21st 1866

Hon. Hugh McCulloch
Secretary of the Treasury

Sir

Having seen in the published proceedings of Congreſs that the Bill authorizing the coinage of 5 cent pieces has become a law by the approval of the President; will you be pleased to furnish me with a certified copy of the Act, so that arrangements can be made for their early issue. I desire to submit to you for selection and approval, specimens of the coin, so soon as the dies can be engraved. It is desirable in the mean time, that planchets be prepared and on hand, so that we can proceed immediately upon the adoption of the devices, with the manufacture of the coin. I herewith enclose planchets of the weight required by law; and of the diameter selected, showing the size of the coin.

This diameter harmonizes admirably with the weight and thickneſs of the planchets, and also with the "metric system"; that is to say, it is just two "centimetres" or twenty "millimetres," so that fifty pieces laid in a straight line would make the "metre" or "unit" of

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French measure. It will also be so near eight tenths of an inch, that no ordinary measurement can tell the difference.

A smaller diameter would make the coin too thick and clumsy; a greater diameter too large, and so thin as to render the striking almost impracticable, especially as the alloy or mixture is so hard. If you will signify your approval of the diameter selected, we will proceed at once to prepare the planchets, and so soon as the experimental dies are ready, the specimen coins will be struck and forwarded to you for your selection and approval as required by the act.

Very respectfully

Jas. Pollock

Director

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